

To the FCC,

I wholeheartedly support EPIC in their petition to reduce the amount of time that telephone operators are required to store customer call information.

Human beings need to maintain a fundamental right to privacy. As the digital era brings information our information into ever larger and more tempting vaults, so too do those who would use that information against us. It is unreasonable to expect that people are able to live their lives in such a way that our data can't be used against us.

While in theory it seems a good idea to keep those records in order to enable law enforcement to keep us safe, the reality is that those records are digital and, as experience has shown, all digital records are subject to hacking, alteration, and/or theft. By forcing telephone operators to keep records for such a lengthy time, we are exposing ourselves to serious violations of our privacy.

This exposure is not theoretical in nature. It happens again, again, and again. Billions upon billions of records are stolen every year. Many of those thefts go unreported. And no system is safe. Even the government's own Office of Personnel Management has suffered the loss of millions of records, exposing the private details of many key government officials and employees.

It is time for us to mitigate the value of records databases by ending the forced storage of so much information.